

March 2023

Dean's Corner

February is my least favorite month of the year because it's the coldest- although as I am writing this, it's 60 degrees and sunny outside. But I have two things that I feel are good about February - it's a short month, and our February Flourish happens. This year's event was exceptional, as always. We had 57 in attendance, and the sessions were well-received. We were so glad to be able to be back in person for this event - the last two were necessarily virtual.

I want to thank Dawn Riske, Director of February Flourish for the last several years, for her hard work. With her leadership, these events have been successful, and have helped our Chapter maintain the educational part of our charter. Dawn would like to pass the baton to someone to take over for the 2024 event, although there are some conversations in the works of how we may restructure this event. More to come . . . Thank you, Dawn!

Please be sure that you have the next two events on your calendars: the Members' Recital will be held at Grace United Methodist Church on March 27, hosted by Dr. Sarah Bereza. This year's closing banquet will be at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet on May 22. Both events will have a dinner preceding the program. I hope that you will be able to come and enjoy some fellowship with other members.

Our Program Committee, chaired by Sub-Dean Mary Beth Wittry, is currently meeting to plan our upcoming program year. Also, the Avis Blewett Nominating Committee, led this year by Bill Sullivan, AAGO, is meeting to discuss candidates for that award. The Executive Board will be meeting before the dinner on March 27 at Grace.

Finally, I would like to invite you to consider attending the North Central Regional Convention this year, which is July 4 - 7 in Minneapolis. Several of us are already signing up to go, and it's a great way to not only meet with our colleagues from all over the region, but it will also give you an opportunity to experience one of these events (if you have not yet done so) and charge you up for the National 2026 Convention in St. Louis. (The 2024 national convention will be in San Francisco.) You may attend any Regional Convention, and more information may be found on the National website by going to www.agohq.org and clicking on Conventions. One of my colleagues reminded me that our organization is for professional development and education. These events go a long way to providing both!

As our busy season ramps up with Lent and Easter right around the corner, I hope that you again will take time to reflect, relax, and I hope to see you all very soon!

Sincerely,

Jeff White, CAGO
Dean



Jeffrey White—Dean



Mary Beth Wittry
wittrym@stgabrielstl.org

I hope and pray your 2023 is off to a grand start!

We have two more events to look forward to in this 2022-2023 year of the St. Louis Chapter of the AGO. On Monday, March 27, Sarah Bereza has graciously offered her lovely church home, Grace United Methodist, to host the chapter **Members' Recital** after we share a meal together that evening at 6:30 p.m. Please be sure to RSVP for the dinner by contacting Cathy Bolduan at Kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com or 314-853-5011.

So far three people have volunteered to play, so please contact me if you are interested in gifting us with your playing that evening. There is room for several more.

We will close the year with our annual banquet at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet on Monday, May 22. In addition to dinner and our customary recognition of incoming and outgoing officers, we will have the delight of seeing the beautiful chapel at the Motherhouse and hopefully see and hear the historic organ in the chapel. Please mark your calendars for these two special events.

David Sinden and David Erwin are serving on the program committee with me to plan events for 2023-2024. If you have any suggestions or ideas to share, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Blessings to all and hope to see you soon.

Members' Recital, Monday, March 27

Grace United Methodist, Sarah Bereza, host
 6199 Waterman Boulevard
 St. Louis, MO 63112

Board 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Concert 7:30 p.m.

For those with accessible needs, there is a small lot next to the church on Waterman. Everyone else should use street parking on Waterman or the church's big lot on Skinker (one block north of the church building, just past Snarfs, on the right). Enter the church through the door off the small lot on Waterman (big glass doors); all other doors will be locked.



February Flourish 2023

A Trio of Happenings

February Flourish 2023 at Peace Lutheran Church in Saint Louis, Missouri was a valuable “Trio of Happenings.” Sponsored by the Saint Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the support of the local chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and the Handbell Association of Greater Saint Louis is added to the variety of offerings. The “Trio of Happenings” on February 10-12 included Friday Evening Prayer in the Style of Taizé, Saturday workshops, networking, and exhibits, and a Sunday recital by Dr. Steven Wentz of Concordia University, Chicago.

Evening Prayer was led by members of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians who previously worked with Brothers from the Taizé community. On Saturday, close to 60 attendees shared in the conference, with topics ranging from “Being Yourself in Ministry” to “Celebrating César Franck” to “Ministry in Diverse Settings” to “Healthy Handbell Ringing.” The weekend events were powerfully brought to a close with a Sunday organ recital, in which Dr. Wentz included music from black, young, and women composers. The themes of peace, faith and hope gave shape and meaning to his wonderful performance.

Thanks go to Burnell Hackman and the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church for hosting us with such generosity and efficiency. The February Flourish Planning Team was essential to its success: Registrar Rick Burk, Treasurer Mike Kaberline, local arrangements Burnell Hackman, Publicity Suzanne Chisum and Brent Johnson, New Member Coordinator Nannette Tornblom, Chapter Registrar Regina Morris, Dean Jeff White and Sub-Dean Mary Beth Wittry. I wish you all could have seen Jeff punching and inserting combs in those February Flourish Program Books.

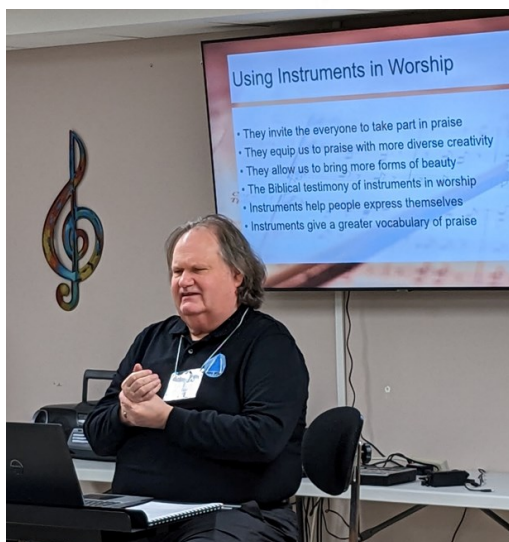
While I will no longer direct any future February Flourish events, there may still be ways to build a winter workshop. If you are interested in how this might grow into the future, please let us know.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Dawn Riske, CAGO



Setting for the Taizé service.



“Using Instruments in Worship” workshop led by Burnell Hackman



Keynote speaker, Dr. Sarah Bereza

(more photos from February Flourish 2023)



Some of the presenters for February Flourish



A scene from "Making Handbells Accessible to All" with one of the presenters, Sherry Boland



Sunday's concert organist Dr. Steven Wentz



The audience enraptured by the performance of Dr. Steven Wentz

You will find more photos from February Flourish on our [Facebook Page](#).

AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 6—10, 2026

[Click here for more information](#)



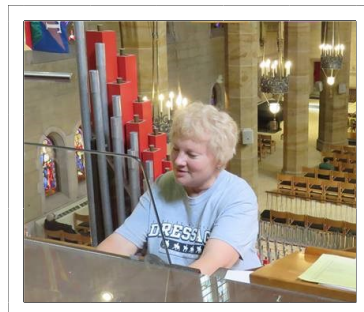
2023 NOMINEES

The following slate of nominees has been presented by the duly appointed nominating committee. We thank Regina Morris, Suzanne Chisum and Matt Gerhardt for serving on that committee. Additional nominations may be made by petition if each petition is signed by five (5) Chapter members in good standing and submitted to the Chapter Secretary no later than March 15. The actual election will take place between March 15 and April 15. Specific instructions for voting will appear in the April issue of The OPUS.

SECRETARY

GAYE ANDERSON

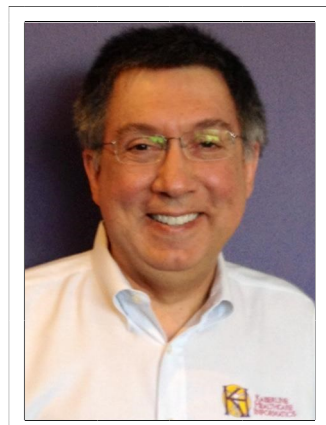
Gaye is the Organist/Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Parish in Alton, IL. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree with emphasis in Piano Performance from Greenville College in Greenville, IL and a Master's degree from Webster University, St. Louis in Organ Performance. Gaye is a student of Canon Precentor Dr. William Partridge at Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis. She operates Livery Haus Music Studio in her hometown of Marine, IL and is also an equestrian instructor at the family-owned dressage and hunter/jumper stable Brier Bank Farm in Marine. Gaye is married to attorney Roy Anderson. They have been blessed with two children: Son, David (Organist/Music Director at St. Peter's UCC in Ferguson) and daughter, Lauren (artist). In her 'spare time', Gaye assists the staff at Gateway Music Group, LLC and enjoys antiques, renovating old houses, and playing with the family's two Jack Russell "hunt terriers."



TREASURER

MIKE KABERLINE

Mike began serving as Treasurer for the 2015 AGO Regional Convention in St. Louis and then as the Treasurer for the St. Louis Chapter shortly after. He has held positions in finance and financial reporting for several non-profit and political organizations – on national, state-wide, and local levels. In addition to managing a Healthcare Informatics company, he is also the Product Manager for three medical practice management software products for eMDs/CompuGroup Medical. Although not an organist, he has a long admiration and love of organ music and the physical design of organs.



NOMINEES CONTINUED

CLASS OF 2026

Stephen Jones

Stephen Jones is a composer pianist, organist, choir director and music teacher. He has composed music for solo piano, song cycles for piano and voice, chamber ensemble as well as orchestral pieces. Stephen studied music composition and theory with composer John Huggler at the University of Massachusetts Boston MA. After completing a BA in Theory and Composition and a BA in English Literature he went to graduate school in SUNY Fredonia New York. His primary composition teacher there was Donald Bohlen. He completed his Masters degree in Composition and Theory and earned his teaching certificate in Vocal music K-12. After twenty-five years teaching vocal music in the St. Louis Public Schools Stephen retired from teaching in June 2015. His career as a part-time church musician began when he started student teaching. He had been a choir director and an organist before moving to St. Louis. In St. Louis Stephen was the organist at St. Philips Lutheran for ten years and was the Minister of Music for ten years at Church of the Open Door UCC. His most recent position was at St. George Catholic Church—a position which was eliminated when St. George and St. Dominic Savio merged in May 2018. Stephen is currently the Music Director for St. Stephens Protomartyr Catholic church.



Mark Lawson

Mark W. Lawson is the President of ECS Publishing Group, parent company for E.C. Schirmer, Galaxy Music Corporation and MorningStar Music Publishers. Mr. Lawson has been active in developing digital delivery methods, strategizing about the development of music web-sites, and has been involved in numerous recording projects. As a publisher, he enjoys working with both new as well as established composers. He is actively involved in the Music Publishers Association, the Church Music Publishers Association, and serves on the board of directors of Chorus America.



Sharon Whitlock

Sharon Whitlock moved to Wentzville from Rockford, IL in August 2022 to be close to her children and grandson after the death of her husband, Brad (married 41 years). Sharon worked as a Medical Technologist (Microbiology) for 31 years at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford and was active in the local figure skating club. She has written several figure skating novels. But Sharon's main involvements were and still are in music. She started piano lessons when she was seven and was playing in several churches by the time she was 13! Sharon was in demand in Rockford as an accompanist for choirs of all ages and experience levels, soloists, musical theater, music competitions, local arts festivals, and of course, for churches. Her church children's choir grew from 24 children to 70 children in three years. Sharon has also written music for children and adults. Sharon was also active in musical organizations in Rockford, including serving on the board of the Rockford Choral Union, and serving as the Chair of the Annual Chandler Starr Miller Youth Music Competition for a dozen years. She has presented workshops in Hymn History. Sharon is a member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) and is a patroness for the Sigma Alpha Iota International (Women's) Music Fraternity.



Concert Calendar

If you are hosting or sponsoring an event, or know of any that may be of interest to the members of our Chapter, please be sure to send that information to events@agostlouis.org so those events may be posted on the Chapter website. Thank you!

Lenten Organ Recital Series—Peace Lutheran Church (737 Barracksvue Road)

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (followed by weekly Lenten worship service)

March 1 - Elin Hogan-Gomez, Salem Lutheran Church, Black Jack

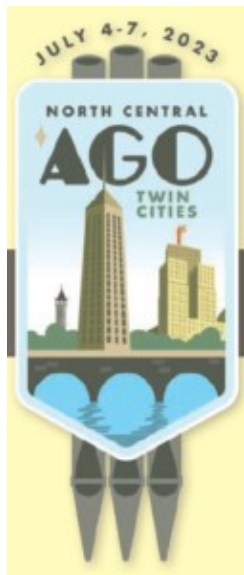
March 8 - Kevin Huckshold, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis

March 15 - Matthew Gerhardt, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Des Peres

March 22 - Joy Elowsky, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Collinsville

March 29 - Jeffrey White, Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Louis

Check the [Concerts and Events](#) section of the Chapter website for more details and recently posted events.



North Central Regional Convention

Hosted by the [Twin Cities Chapter](#)
Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota
Hotel: Hilton Minneapolis

July 4-7, 2023

For detailed information visit the [Website](#).



American Guild of Organists
PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTERS

2023

Registration opened on December 1, 2022

June 18-23

Wheaton, Illinois

[Fox Valley Chapter](#)

Wheaton College

Director: David A. Lincoln

630-655-2124

[Email Fox Valley POE Director](#)

[Fox Valley POE website](#)

Registration Deadline: May 15, 2023

Click [HERE](#) to view additional information and view the brochure.

June 25-30

Wichita, Kansas

[Wichita Chapter](#)

Wichita State University

Co-Director: Annette Lindal

316-215-4402

[Email Wichita POE Co-Director](#)

[Wichita POE website](#)

Registration Deadline: May 15, 2023

Click [HERE](#) to view additional information and view the brochure.



We are resuming including paid advertisements in The OPUS. If you or someone you know is interested in placing an ad or business card in an upcoming issue, please contact the OPUS Editor at newsletter@agostlouis.org. As outlined below, there is the option to include an ad in every issue of OPUS for one year, or for select issues throughout the year. Payment must be received in advance to insure that the ad will be included. There will soon be the option to purchase ad space through our website, so stay tuned!

Yearly Newsletter Advertisement (2022-2023)

Ad Size:	Rate:
1/8 Page (2.1/4"x3.7/8")	\$140
¼ Page (4.1/2"x3.7/8")	\$210
½ Page (4.3/4"x7.3/4")	\$290
Full Page (10"x7.1/2")	\$500

Nine (9) issues total— Sep., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, Summer

Contact: newsletter@agostlouis.org for more info.

Ad Copy and payment is due by the 10th of the month prior to issue date.

Send Ad Copy to newsletter@agostlouis.org.

Payment is also due by the 10th of the month prior to issue date.

Send payment (payable to St. Louis Chapter-AGO) to Mike Kaberline, Treasurer, 2 Holly Ridge Ct., Swansea, IL 62226 or contact him at mike@kaberline.com for other payment options.

Single Newsletter Issue Advertisement (2022-2023)

Ad Size:	Rate:
1/8 Page (2.1/4"x3.7/8")	\$20
¼ Page (4.1/2"x3.7/8")	\$40
½ Page (4.3/4"x7.3/4")	\$60
Full Page (10"x7.1/2")	\$100

Select which issue you want you Ad to appear in:
Sep., Oct., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, Summer

Contact: newsletter@agostlouis.org for more info.

Ad Copy and payment is due by the 10th of the month prior to issue date.

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YEARBOOK UPDATES

In this and future issues of THE OPUS there will be an opportunity to provide corrections and changes to member entries as needed by sending the updated information to newsletter@agostlouis.org. Be sure to also keep your information in ONCARD up to date.

For current members of our Chapter whose listing does not appear in the 2022-2023 Yearbook, please send your information to newsletter@agostlouis.org IF you would like the information to be shared with our membership via a future issue of THE OPUS.

We also would like to begin welcoming new members to the Chapter by listing them here in The OPUS. Here is a list of members who have joined since the current Yearbook was published.

Rev. T. Edwards Breed
Dawn Evans
David Hageman
Charles Smith



1906

2023

WICKS ORGAN L.L.C.
HIGHLAND, ILLINOIS



RENOVATIONS
ADDITIONS

NEW ORGANS
SERVICE

618-654-2191 WICKSORGAN.COM

2022-2023 Leadership Team

OFFICERS:

Dean - Jeff White
 Sub-Dean - Mary Beth Wittry
 Secretary - Gaye Anderson
 Treasurer - Mike Kaberline
 Past Dean - Rick Burk

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Class of 2023

Kit LaMar
 Shawn Portell
 Bill Sullivan

Class of 2024

Sarah Bereza
 Chuck Chauvin
 Jill Griffin

Class of 2025

Suzanne Chisum
 Bob Raymond
 David Sinden

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

2026 Convention Coordinator

Burnell Hackman

Auditor

Denis J. Doelling

Certification Coordinator

Brent Johnson

Dinner Reservations

Dr. Cathy Bolduan

Directory Editors

Jeff White & Regina Morris

Educational Resources

Dr. Barbara Raedeke

Historian

Randy Zerkel

Membership Coordinator

Mary Beth Wittry

OPUS Editor

Rick Burk

Photographer

Dawn Riske (Interim)

Placement

Denis J. Doelling

Professional Concerns Liaison

Shawn Portell

Programs

Mary Beth Wittry

Publicity Liaison

Dawn Riske

Registrar

Regina Morris

Social Media Communications

Suzanne Chisum

Webmaster

Brent Johnson

THE OPUS

The Official Publication
 of the St. Louis Chapter
 of the American Guild of Organists
 3526 Oxford Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63143-4209
 January 2023 - Vol. 38, No. 4

You are invited to submit material for publication consideration.
 Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to newsletter@agostlouis.org.

Copy deadline for the April issue is March 15.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

Regina Morris
 3526 Oxford Blvd
 St. Louis MO 63143-4209

THE OPUS

American Guild of Organists

St. Louis Chapter

3526 Oxford Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63143-4209

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Remaining St. Louis Chapter Programs/Meetings

March 27

Member's Recital at Grace United Methodist Church

May 22

Closing Banquet with Installation of officers and Chapter awards
at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

Add these to your personal calendar. Dates and places may change, so please watch for THE OPUS newsletter or check the chapter web site.

